

REMARKS

The present application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated July 9, 2003. Claims 1-15 are presented for examination, of which Claims 1, 7, 13, and 14 are in independent form. Claims 1, 3, 5-7, and 9-13 have been amended as to formal matters and/or to define Applicant's invention more clearly. New Claims 14 and 15 have been added to provide Applicant with a more complete scope of protection. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

The Office Action states that Claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,996,010 (Leong et al.). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections and submits that independent Claims 1, 7, 13, and 14, together with the claims dependent therefrom, are patentably distinct from Leong et al. for at least the following reasons.

An aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 1 is directed to a network device managing apparatus that includes specifying means, acquiring means, storing means, generating means, and transferring means. The specifying means specifies a device on a network as a management target, and the acquiring means acquires management information of the device before the specifying means specifies the device. The storing means stores the management information of the device acquired by the acquiring means.

The generating means generates output information to prepare for displaying the acquired management information in a predetermined form in accordance with identification information of the device. The transferring means transfers, to a predetermined communication link of the network, the output information generated by the generating means in accordance with

a specification of the device by the specifying means. If there is a link to other output information in the output information, the acquiring means acquires management information necessary for the other output information.

Support for the features of Claim 1 may be found, for example, as follows:¹

Support for the specification feature may be found, for example, at step S301 of Fig.11. Support for the acquisition feature may be found, for example, at step S203 of Fig. 10. The management information may be, for example, the document directory 902 discussed in the specification at page 23, lines 18-19, and shown in Fig. 8. Support for the storage feature may be found, for example, at step S204 of Fig.10. Support for the transfer feature may be found, for example, at steps S303-305 of Fig. 11, which relates to transfer processing by the NIC 308 shown in Fig. 3. The predetermined communication link may be, for example, the LAN 100 shown in Fig. 2.

Leong et al. is understood to disclose a network management transaction system in which a browser issues a network management (HTTP) request to a network administration apparatus, and in which the network administration apparatus issues an SNMP request to a device.

Nothing has been found in Leong et al. that is believed to teach or suggest a network device managing apparatus that includes "specifying means for specifying a device on a network as a management target," and "acquiring means for acquiring management information

¹ The examples provided herein are intended for illustrative purposes. It should not be construed that the present invention is limited in any way to the details described in connection with the illustrative examples.

of the device before said specifying means specifies the device," and "storing means for storing the management information of the device acquired by said acquiring means," and "generating means for generating output information to prepare for displaying the acquired management information in a predetermined form in accordance with identification information of the device," and "transferring means for transferring, to a predetermined communication link of the network, the output information generated by said generating means in accordance with a specification of the device by said specifying means," wherein, "if there is a link to other output information in the output information, said acquiring means acquires management information necessary for the other output information," as recited in Claim 1.

Leong et al., at column 3, line 62, to column 4, line 14, discusses transmission of a list of network management functions supported by an agent. Applicant submits, however, that the transmission is performed *after* a device that is to receive a network management request issued from the browser is specified. As understood by Applicant, it is necessary for the Leong et al. system to specify the device beforehand in order to establish communication. That is, it would be technically contradictory to the function of the Leong et al. system to perform the transmission before the device is specified. In contrast, according to the apparatus of Claim 1, management information of a device is acquired *before* the device is specified as a management target.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 1 is not anticipated by Leong et al. and respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). Independent Claims 7 and 13 include an acquisition feature similar to that discussed above, in which

management information of a device is acquired before the device is specified as a management target. Therefore, those claims also are believed to be patentable for at least the above reasons.

An aspect of the present invention set forth in new independent Claim 14 is directed to a network device managing apparatus that includes specifying means, acquiring means, and generating means. The specifying means specifies a device on a network as a management target. The acquiring means acquires management information including a first property related to the device specified by the specifying means. The generating means generates a first output information to display the first property in a predetermined form in accordance with identification information of the device. The first output information generated by the generating means includes address information indicating a location of a second output information in a storage, and the second output information includes a second property related to the device specified by the specification means.

Support for the generation feature of Claim 14 may be found, for example, at steps S107 and S108 of Fig. 9. The processing details of step S108 are shown in Fig. 10 (note, in particular, step S202). Support for new Claim 15, which depends from Claim 14, may be found in Fig. 7, which shows an example of a display window displaying details of a device.

Applicant submits that Leong et al. fails to disclose or suggest generation of a first output information (for example, an HTML page) for displaying a first property (for example, a state of a device), wherein the first output information includes address information (for example, a URL link) of a second output information, which includes a second property related to a specified device (for example, a network property of a specified device), as claimed

in Claim 14. Accordingly, Claim 14 is believed to be patentable over Leong et al.

The other claims in this application depend from one or another of the independent claims discussed above, and therefore are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual consideration or reconsideration, as the case may be, of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

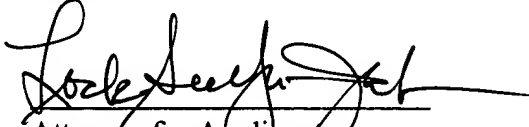
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

No petition to extend the time for response to the Office Action is deemed necessary for the present Amendment. If, however, such a petition is required to make this Amendment timely filed, then this paper should be considered such a petition and the Commissioner is authorized to charge the requisite petition fee to Deposit Account 06-1205.

CONCLUSION

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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